
CORDELL BANK, GULF OF THE FARALLONES AND MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



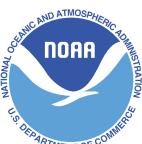
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PREPARED AS PART OF THE
JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (JMPR)

VOLUME IV OF IV

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

SEP 21 2006

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has enclosed for your review the Draft Management Plans/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS) for the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). All three sanctuaries are located off the coast of California and were designated in 1989, 1982, and 1992 respectively. The three sanctuaries protect the rich offshore northern and central California marine ecosystems and cultural resources within a 7,100 square mile area. The area is particularly noted for its coastal estuaries, offshore islands, seamounts, kelp forests, diverse marine mammals, and bird species.

These DMPs/DEIS are prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA developing revised regulations for the CBNMS, GFNMS, and MBNMS under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and are being proposed as part of the management plan review process. The proposed regulatory changes include both new regulations as well as changes to existing regulations. To allow the regulation of certain activities not currently identified as subject to regulation, several of these proposed changes would require the Sanctuary to change its existing terms of designation. The Proposed Rule publishes the proposed new regulations and the proposed changes to existing regulations, the text of the proposed Revised Designation Document for the Sanctuary, and announces the availability of the DMPs/DEIS.

Public hearings will be held in the following locations to take comments on the DMPs, DEIS and the proposed rules:

- 1) November 29, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria, CA 93428.
- 2) November 29, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Bodega Marine Laboratory, 2099 Westside Road, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.
- 3) November 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Monterey Conference Center, One Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940.
- 4) November 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Dance Palace Community Center, 503 B Street, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.
- 5) December 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the University of California Santa Cruz Inn and Conference Center, 611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.
- 6) December 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Mason Center, Firehouse (NE corner of Center), San Francisco, CA 94123
- 7) December 6, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 777 Miramontes Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

Written comments will be accepted within the agency's 90-day comment period and must be received by January 6, 2007. Written comments should be submitted by mail to Brady Phillips,

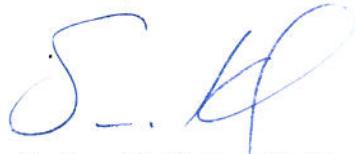


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JMPR Coordinator, NOAA-National Marine Sanctuary Program, 1305 East-West Highway, Room 11163, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, by fax to 301-713-0404, or by e-mail to jointplancomments@noaa.gov

A copy of your comments should be sent to the NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration, SSMC3, Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, by fax to 301-713-0585, or by e-mail to nepa.comments@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,


for Rodney F. Weiher, Ph.D.
NEPA Coordinator

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Joint Management Plan Review**

Lead Agency:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Sanctuaries Program
1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM-6
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Proposed Action:

Regulatory changes for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries resulting from the Joint Management Plan Review

Abstract:

This project proposes a series of regulatory changes intended to resolve inconsistencies in regulatory language and enhance resource protection within the three central and northern California National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) -- Cordell Bank NMS, Gulf of the Farallones NMS, and Monterey Bay NMS. Most of the regulatory changes result in beneficial impacts on resources. The only significant adverse impact was identified on Public Access and Recreation, as a result of the pre-emption of the use of motorized personal watercraft (MPWC) for tow-in surfing in Monterey Bay NMS. This impact could be mitigated to less than significant by providing for special use permits for competitions and training. Less than significant impacts were identified on Commercial Fisheries, Marine Transportation, and Socioeconomics. Beneficial impacts were identified on Air Quality, Biological Resources, Ocean/Geological Resources, Water Quality, Commercial Fisheries, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Development, Public Access and Recreation, Research and Education, Socioeconomics, and Visual Resources. Cumulatively adverse impacts were identified on Commercial Fisheries and Marine Transportation; cumulative beneficial impacts were identified in Air Quality, Biological Resources, Ocean/Geology, Water Quality, Commercial Fisheries, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials, Public Access and Recreation, Socioeconomics, and Visual Resources.

<p>NOAA will hold public meetings on the Draft EIS and Management Plans on the following dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) November 29, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria, CA 93428.2) November 29, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Bodega Marine Laboratory, 2099 Westside Road, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.3) November 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Monterey Conference Center, One Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940.4) November 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Dance Palace Community Center, 503 B Street, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.5) December 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the University of California Santa Cruz Inn and Conference Center, 611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.6) December 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Mason Center, Firehouse (NE corner of Center), San Francisco, CA 94123	<p>If you would like further information regarding this statement, please contact: Brady Phillips JMPR Coordinator National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Sanctuaries Program 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM-6 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Phone: 301-713-3125 x264 E-mail: Brady.Phillips@noaa.gov</p> <p>Comments should be addressed to the above person and should be received by: January 6, 2007.</p>
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7) December 6, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the
Community United Methodist Church,
777 Miramontes Street, Half Moon Bay,
CA 94019.

Further information on the JMPR can be
found at the project website:
<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	ES-1
1. PURPOSE AND NEED	1-1
1.1 Introduction	1-1
1.2 Background.....	1-1
1.2.1 National Marine Sanctuary Act and National Marine Sanctuary Program	1-1
1.2.2 Joint Management Plan Review Process	1-2
1.3 Project Location	1-3
1.4 Purpose and Need of Proposed Action	1-5
1.5 Scope of EIS	1-8
1.6 Decisions to be Made	1-9
1.7 Agency Coordination.....	1-9
1.8 Public Involvement	1-9
1.9 Related Studies.....	1-11
1.10 Organization of EIS	1-12
2. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES DESCRIPTION	2-1
2.1 Development of Proposed and Alternative Regulatory Actions	2-2
2.2 Proposed and Alternative Regulatory Changes	2-2
2.2.1 Proposed Cross-Cutting Regulations in the Sanctuaries.....	2-3
2.2.2 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Regulations	2-7
2.2.3 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Regulations	2-14
2.2.4 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Regulations.....	2-19
2.3 No Action alternative.....	2-27
2.4 Alternatives Identified But Removed From Consideration.....	2-29
2.5 Proposed Changes to Sanctuary Designation Documents	2-36
2.5.1 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary	2-37
2.5.2 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	2-38
2.5.3 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	2-39
2.6 Technical Regulatory Changes.....	2-40
3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACT ANALYSIS	3-1
3.1 Introduction to Affected Environment and Impact Analysis.....	3-1
3.1.1 Chapter Overview.....	3-1
3.1.2 Scope of Impact Analysis.....	3-2
3.1.3 Scoping Issues	3-3
3.1.4 Cumulative Effects Scenario.....	3-5
3.2 Air Quality and Climate.....	3-10
3.2.1 Regulatory Overview	3-10
3.2.2 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-11
3.2.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-16
3.2.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations –Environmental Consequences	3-17
3.2.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary –Environmental Consequences	3-18
3.2.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-19
3.2.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary–Environmental Consequences	3-21
3.2.8 Clean Air Act de Minimis Level Impact Evaluation	3-22
3.2.9 Cumulative Impacts	3-22
3.3 Biological Resources.....	3-24
3.3.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-26

TABLE OF CONTENTS (*continued*)

Section		Page
	3.3.2 Habitat Types.....	3-31
	3.3.3 Wildlife Resources.....	3-35
	3.3.4 Regulatory Environment.....	3-44
	3.3.5 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-48
	3.3.6 Cross-Cutting Regulations—Environmental Consequences	3-50
	3.3.7 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary—Environmental Consequences	3-55
	3.3.8 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary—Environmental Consequences	3-58
	3.3.9 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary—Environmental Consequences	3-62
	3.3.10 Cumulative Impacts	3-66
3.4	3.4 Oceanography and Geology	3-68
	3.4.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-68
	3.4.2 Regulatory Environment.....	3-70
	3.4.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-72
	3.4.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-72
	3.4.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-72
	3.4.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-74
	3.4.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-75
	3.4.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-77
3.5	3.5 Water Quality	3-79
	3.5.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-79
	3.5.2 Regulatory Environment.....	3-87
	3.5.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-89
	3.5.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-90
	3.5.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-93
	3.5.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-93
	3.5.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-94
	3.5.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-97
3.6	3.6 Commercial Fisheries.....	3-99
	3.6.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-99
	3.6.2 Regulatory Environment.....	3-112
	3.6.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-115
	3.6.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-116
	3.6.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-118
	3.6.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-122
	3.6.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary—Environmental Consequences	3-124
	3.6.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-126
3.7	3.7 Cultural and Maritime Heritage Resources.....	3-128
	3.7.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-128
	3.7.2 Regulatory Environment.....	3-130
	3.7.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-131

TABLE OF CONTENTS (*continued*)

Section		Page
	3.7.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-132
	3.7.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-133
	3.7.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-134
	3.7.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-134
	3.7.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-136
3.8	3.8 Hazardous Wastes and Waste Disposal.....	3-137
	3.8.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-137
	3.8.2 Regulatory Environment.....	3-138
	3.8.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-139
	3.8.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-140
	3.8.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-141
	3.8.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-143
	3.8.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-144
	3.8.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-145
3.9	3.9 Land Use And Development	3-147
	3.9.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-147
	3.9.2 Regulatory Environment.....	3-150
	3.9.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-151
	3.9.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-151
	3.9.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-154
	3.9.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-155
	3.9.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-156
	3.9.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-157
3.10	3.10 Marine Transportation	3-158
	3.10.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-158
	3.10.2 Regulatory Overview	3-159
	3.10.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-160
	3.10.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-161
	3.10.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-165
	3.10.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-165
	3.10.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-166
	3.10.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-166
3.11	3.11 Public Access and Recreation.....	3-168
	3.11.1 Regional Overview of Affected Environment	3-168
	3.11.2 Regulatory Environment.....	3-174
	3.11.3 Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology.....	3-175
	3.11.4 Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences	3-175
	3.11.5 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-176
	3.11.6 Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-178
	3.11.7 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences	3-181
	3.11.8 Cumulative Impacts	3-183
3.12	3.12 Research and Education	3-185

TABLE OF CONTENTS (*continued*)

Section	Page
3.12.1	Regional Overview of Affected Environment 3-185
3.12.2	Regulatory Environment 3-187
3.12.3	Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology 3-187
3.12.4	Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences 3-187
3.12.5	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-189
3.12.6	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-190
3.12.7	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-191
3.12.8	Cumulative Impacts 3-192
3.13	Socioeconomic, Demographic, and Environmental Justice Resources 3-194
3.13.1	Regional Overview of Affected Environment 3-194
3.13.2	Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology 3-200
3.13.3	Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences 3-201
3.13.4	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-203
3.13.5	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-204
3.13.6	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-207
3.13.7	Cumulative Impacts 3-209
3.14	Visual Resources 3-211
3.14.1	Regional Overview of Affected Environment 3-211
3.14.2	Regulatory Environment 3-213
3.14.3	Significance Criteria and Impact Methodology 3-213
3.14.4	Cross-Cutting Regulations – Environmental Consequences 3-214
3.14.5	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-214
3.14.6	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-215
3.14.7	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Environmental Consequences 3-215
3.14.8	Cumulative Impacts 3-216
4.	ALTERNATIVES SUMMARY 4-1
4.1	Introduction 4-1
4.2	Impact Summary 4-1
4.2.1	The Proposed Action 4-1
4.2.2	Alternative Regulatory Actions 4-4
4.2.3	The No Action Alternative 4-4
5.	OTHER REQUIRED NEPA ANALYSES 5-1
5.1	Unavoidable Significant Adverse Impacts 5-1
5.2	Relationship Between Short-term Uses and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity 5-1
5.3	Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources 5-1
5.4	Environmental Health and Safety Risks to Children 5-2
5.5	Impacts Found To Be Not Significant 5-2
6.	PROPOSED FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS 6-1
6.1	Introduction 6-1
6.2	Consultations and Results under the NMSA 6-1
6.3	NMSA and NEPA Findings and Determinations 6-3

TABLE OF CONTENTS (*continued*)

Section	Page
6.3.1 Determinations Required Under Section 303 of the NMSA.....	6-3
6.3.2 Section 303(b)(1) discussion.....	6-5
6.3.3 Resource Assessment	6-7
6.4 Relation to Existing Laws and Executive Orders.....	6-8
7. REPORT PREPARERS	7-1
8. REFERENCES.....	8-1
9. GLOSSARY	9-1

APPENDICES

Appendix

A.	NOTICE OF INTENT AND SCOPING SUMMARY	A-1
B.	DESIGNATION DOCUMENTS AND REGULATIONS CHANGES.....	B-1
C.	SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION PLANS	C-1
D.	BIOLOGY TABLES.....	D-1

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
ES-1 Joint Management Plan Review Study Area.....	ES-3
1-1 Joint Management Plan Review Study Area.....	1-4
2-1 CBNMS and the 50-fathom isobath around the Bank.....	2-9
2-2 GFNMS and the Farallon Islands	2-16
2-3 Seagrass Bed Protection - No-Anchor Zones in Tomales Bay	2-18
2-4 Davidson Seamount – Proposed and Alternative Boundaries.....	2-22
2-5 Motorized Personal Watercraft Zones	2-25
2-6 MBNMS Harbors and Dredge Disposal Sites.....	2-28
3-1 Species Diversity and Density in the Sanctuaries.....	3-25
3-2 Number of Commercial Fishing Vessels Reporting Catches per Major Port Group Adjacent to the Three Sanctuary Area.....	3-102
3-3 Groundfish Gear Evolution, 1981-2003.....	3-104
3-4 Trawl Intensity in CB/GFNMS	3-105
3-5 Trawl Intensity in MBNMS.....	3-106
3-6 Total Annual Number of Species Landed In Ports Adjacent to Three Sanctuary Area.....	3-107
3-7 Three Sanctuary Area Landings of Select Fisheries, 1981-2003	3-108
3-8 Total Landings and Ex-vessel Revenue Reported to the Ports Adjacent to the Three Sanctuary Area, 1990-2003.....	3-108
3-9 Total Pounds of Fish Landed in Each of the Major Port Groups, 1981–2003	3-110
3-10 Ex-vessel Revenue from Fish Landed in Each of the Major Port Groups, 1981–2003	3-110

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2-1 Proposed and Alternative Regulatory Changes	2-45
3-1 Location of Major Scoping Issue Discussions in Document	3-4
3-2 Cumulative Projects.....	3-7
3-3 Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	3-13
3-4 Air Quality Attainment Status for Air Basins within the Sanctuaries	3-15
3-5 Listing of Individual Ports by Port Group	3-99
3-6 Number of Commercial Fishing Vessels Reporting Catches per Major Port Group adjacent to the Three Sanctuary Area.....	3-101
3-7 Top Ten Ex-Vessel Revenue Producing Species\Species Groups Reported to the Ports Adjacent to the Three Sanctuary Area, Pounds and Ex-vessel Value, 1990 and 2000	3-109
3-8 Percent Economic Value of the 50-Fathom Isobath Compared to the Total Value of CBNMS and the Area from Bodega Bay to Pillar Point	3-121
3-9 California Marine Recreation	3-169
3-10 Estimated Number of Days Fished and Participants in Northern California by Mode and Resident Status (2000).....	3-170
3-11 County Population Estimates 1990-2000	3-195
3-12 County Employment by Industry Sectors (2000).....	3-196
3-13 Total Recreation Travel Spending by County (1992-2000) (\$ Millions)	3-197
3-14 Total Northern California Recreation/Fishing-related Expenditures by Mode and Resident Status (\$000s).....	3-198
3-15 Total Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity (2000).....	3-199
3-16 Income and Poverty Statistics (2000).....	3-200
4-1 Summary of Impacts under the Proposed Action.....	4-2
4-2 Summary of Impacts under the Alternative Regulatory Actions.....	4-5
4-3 Summary of Impacts under the No Action Alternative	4-6

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Phrase
AB	Assembly Bill
APPS	Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships
AS	Alaska Statute
ASBS	Area of Special Biological Significance
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BART	Bay Area Rapid Transit
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BP	Before Present
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBFNA	California Boating Facilities Needs Assessment
CBNMS	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
CCA	California Coastal Act
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CINMS	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DMP	Draft Management Plan
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FMP	Fishery Management Plan(s)
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
GFMP	Groundfish Fishery Management Plan
GFNMS	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
GGNRA	Golden Gate National Recreational Area
GIS	Geographic Information System
HAPC	Habitat Area Of Particular Concern
HC	Hydrocarbons
HMS	Highly Migratory Species
IMO	United Nations International Maritime Organization

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Phrase
JMPR	Joint Management Plan Review
LCP	Local Coastal Program
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MBARI	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
MBNMS	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MBUAPCD	Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
MERITO	Multicultural Education of Resource Issues Threatening Oceans
MLMA	Marine Life Management Act
MLML	Moss Landing Marine Lab
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPRSA	Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act also known as the Ocean Dumping Act
MPWC	Motorized Personal Watercraft
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MSD	Marine Sanitation Device
MTBE	Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAD 83	North American Datum of 1983
NAO	NOAA Administrative Order
NCCAB	North Central Coast Air Basin
NCP	National Contingency Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMA	Northern Management Area
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NMSA	National Marine Sanctuaries Act
NMSP	National Marine Sanctuaries Program
NCCOS	National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
NOI	Notice Of Intent
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NPCA	National Park and Conservation Association
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NPS	National Park Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
OCSLA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OTEC	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
OWS	Oil-Water Separator
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
PISCO	Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Phrase
P.L.	Public Law
PM ₁₀	10-micron particulate matter
PM _{2.5}	2.5-micron particulate matter
PPM	Parts per Million
PRNS	Point Reyes National Seashore
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act
RHA	Federal Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899
ROD	Record of Decision
ROI	Region of Influence
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Boards
SAC	Sanctuary Advisory Council
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCCAB	South Central Coast Air Basin
SF-DODS	San Francisco Deep Ocean Disposal Site
SFA	Sustainable Fisheries Act
SFAB	San Francisco Air Basin
SIMoN	Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network
SLA	Submerged Lands Act
SLOAPCD	San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District
SMPA	Special Marine Protected Area
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
SWQRCB	State Water Quality Resources Control Board
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USDOI	United States Department of Interior
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
VTS	Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service
VTSS	Vessel Traffic Service/Separation